Weapons of Mass Destruction

1077. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an independent commission of the United Nations seeking to end the threat posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction has recommended that all nuclear weapons States including India, Pakistan, US and China ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The Swedish Government established in December 2003 a Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission. The Commission was headed by Dr. Hans Blix, former Director-General of IAEA, and included 15 members from different countries. The Commission published a report in May 2006 which *inter alia* included a recommendation that "all states that have not already done so should sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty unconditionally and without delay".

(b) On different occasions, India has stated that it will not stand in the way of the Entry into Force of the Treaty. India is already in *de facto* observance of the spirit of the Treaty by maintaining the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

Indians in Pakistani and Bangladeshi Jails

1078. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals in various jails outside India and the number out of them languishing in Pakistani and Bangladeshi jails till the month of June 2006;

(b) the number out that of them were fishermen who crossed over to Pakistani territory and were taken as prisoners by the Pakistani authorities;

(c) the number of them who are in jails for more than fifteen years; and

(d) the steps Government have initiated to bring them back home as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) According to information available, 136 civilian prisoners, 412 fishermen and 74 POWs are in Pakistani jails. In